Amendments to the Claims

1. (currently amended) A ~~Diagnostic~~ diagnostic tool adapted to assist in the diagnosis of pulmonary diseases, based on data not including lung function measurement data, comprising:

a display unit (2) for displaying predefined diagnostic questions relating to the pulmonary disease, and for outputting a diagnostic prognosis on the disease,

input unit (4) adapted to receive responses from a user to the diagnostic questions displayed on the display unit ~~(4)~~ (2),

a storage unit (8) having stored thereon the predefined questions and the interactively input responses, and

a calculation unit (6) adapted to:

assign each received response a predetermined count value,

add up the count values obtaining a final count value, and

assign the final count value the diagnostic prognosis using a pre-defined result table (15) stored in the storage unit (8).

2. (currently amended) The diagnostic tool of claim 1, wherein the diagnostic prognosis is given as a percentage value for the general ~~practioner~~ practitioner or a risk factor for the patient.

3. (currently amended) The diagnostic tool of ~~claims~~ claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the diagnostic questions comprise questions about patient demographic data, smoking status and subjective patient disease symptoms.

4. (original) The diagnostic tool of claim 3, wherein the demographic data include age, sex and/or body mass index (BMI) of the patient.

5. (currently amended) The diagnostic tool of claim 3 ~~or 4~~, wherein the questions about the smoking status of the patient include questions about current smoking status and aggregate smoking history.

6. (original) The diagnostic tool of claim 5, wherein the calculation unit (6) utilises a transformation table (25) assigning predetermined count values to different combinations of smoking intensity (cigarettes per day) and smoking duration (in years).

7. (currently amended) The diagnostic tool of ~~one of claims~~ claim 3 ~~to 6~~, wherein the subjective patient disease symptoms include breathing restrictions, phlegm and ~~chess~~ chest wheezing or whistling.

8. (currently amended) The diagnostic tool of ~~one of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 7~~, wherein the diagnostic tool is formed as an electronic instrument (10).

9. (original) The diagnostic tool of claim 8, being formed as a handheld device comprising an input key (4) and a scroll wheel (4a) allowing one hand operation of the diagnostic tool.

10. (currently amended) The diagnostic tool of claim 8 ~~or 9~~, comprising photovoltaic cells (7) as power source.

11. (currently amended) The diagnostic tool of ~~one of claims~~ claim 8 ~~to 10~~, wherein the diagnostic tool is integrated with a handheld computer or organiser.

12. (currently amended) The diagnostic tool of ~~one of claims~~ claim 8 ~~to 11~~, wherein the diagnostic tool comprises a casing for housing a prescription pad (21) and a pen.

13. (currently amended) The diagnostic tool of ~~one of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 7~~, being formed as a mechanical device.

14. (currently amended) The diagnostic tool of ~~anyone of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 which can be operated in remote application, as for example by Internet, by Email, SMS or MMS.

15. (currently amended) The diagnostic tool of claim 1, wherein ~~Use of~~ the diagnostic tool ~~of one of claims 1 to 14,~~ is used for diagnosing chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

16. (currently amended) The diagnostic tool of claim 1, wherein ~~Use of~~ the diagnostic tool ~~of anyone of claims 1 to 15~~ is used for diagnosing previously undiagnosed persons.

17. (currently amended) The diagnostic tool of claim 1, wherein ~~Use of~~ the diagnostic tool ~~of anyone of claims 1 to 15~~ is used as a tool for the recruitment of participants for clinical trials.

18. (currently amended) The diagnostic tool of claim 1, wherein ~~Use of~~ the diagnostic tool ~~of anyone of claims 1 to 15~~ is used as a differential diagnosis tool allowing to differentiate COPD from other chronic obstructive respiratory diseases such as asthma.

19. (new) A method of diagnosing chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) in a person, wherein the method comprises the input and evaluation of responses from said person with the aid of a diagnostic tool of claim 1.

20. (new) A method of diagnosing COPD in a previously undiagnosed person, wherein the method comprises the input and evaluation of responses from said person with the aid of a diagnostic tool of claim 1.

21. (new) A method for the recruitment of participants for clinical trials, wherein the method comprises the input and evaluation of responses from potential participants with the aid of a diagnostic tool of claim 1.

22. (new) A method to differentiate COPD from other chronic obstructive respiratory diseases, wherein the method comprises the input and evaluation of responses from a person with the aid of a diagnostic tool of claim 1.

23. (new) A method to differentiate COPD from asthma, wherein the method comprises the input and evaluation of responses from a person with the aid of a diagnostic tool of claim 1.